

241

575

244

562

Kwoma OJ13

[For information on the Kwoma Yam Cult, sometimes referred to as a male secret society, see category 794.]

754 carrying a spear. Later I heard loud voices at the house tamberan, so I
 578 went down. It seems that someone brought word that Kwalump was responsible
 for the accusation of the Haymahwo, and people are becoming annoyed with
 him and brought up the fact that they mistrusted his father for killing
 [648] Mar's brother. Kar brought up the fact that he and other Haymahwos had
 hidden Kwalump from the police, and now they thought they would turn him
 over to them.

123 After I had stayed for a while, Wof politely asked me to leave. I
 went to Wof's house and sat down with all the women and May. Chinwa
 rubbed my arms, and Kwiysay and Aw gigglingly protested and pretended
 to be shocked.

522 March 23, 1937. I went to Mar's with Gwiyp. Aw and Kwiya were
 there. Gwiyp began walking around with a stick between his legs telling
 the girls that Fit's penis had been stiff that morning 'just like this'.
 Fit became annoyed and said it wasn't so. Gwiyp kept teasing him for some
 time about it. The girls thought Gwiyp very funny but gave Fit a piece
 of their mind for having had an erection in public.

241 March 24, 1937. Mar plans to go to the bush to tie up yams.

576 March 26, 1937. When news came of Sovinambi's accident (he had been
 bitten by a wild pig), War, Wof, Mar, Yat, and Wayakola went to pay
 respects.

231 March 27, 1937. Marok's dog died this afternoon. I went down to his house
 to find him sitting in the new house, very glum. Uka was sitting outside,
 but did not return my greeting. The dog was lying in the old house, Marok's
 wife sitting beside it. Uka came to the doorway, looked at the dog, and
 started sobbing -- it was restrained, not a wail. Chinwa came and
 started wailing, took the dog in her lap, and continued until I left.

578 seems that War wants to kill them, and Wof takes a negative attitude. His garden is next to Yelagu, and if War made a raid, it wouldn't be safe to work there. War then accused Wof of telling the Tug men of War's plans, and thus thwarting his plans because of the close connection between Tug and Yelagu. Wof denied it, and so the argument continues.

114
[372]
[136]
[578] I went down to Wof's house tonight after supper; people were sitting around the fire burning mosquitoes off their legs with a torch. Wof, who was at the house tambaran called Sin sin sin (greetings) very loudly.

Kaya repeated this mockingly.

534 April 13, 1937. Afek and Fokotay are helping with the gong. Wof is conspicuously absent. He says he has to look out for food, and it's not his gong anyway. (Strain over the yelagu affair I think). Way is also absent (due to knife stealing I think). I haven't seen him since I got back.

123
863 Chinuwa and Kum slept under the mosquito net enclosing the dining work room in my house last night; and Kum wet the floor. Kwiya and Afinok came this morning and were much upset about this, said they were going to spank Kum for it, and helped clean it up.

859 Marok came into the house and pounded Afi on the back a couple of times asking her what she was doing playing about when she should be working, getting firewood, etc. She ran away and down to the house.

224 Mas is now our shoot boy, as Namb has quit. Yesterday Mas killed
784 two gouria pigeons and this morning killed another one. Yat told him that
226 he could not eat any. Mas realized that he should not eat them because he
[177] had killed them, but Oriyap and Mar said that killing them with a musket was different from killing them with a spear, and that therefore it was all right. Mas was not convinced, however, and this morning he came out with the rationalization that Namb had continually missed shots because he had eaten birds he had shot.

124 bucket, so we followed them, and I washed. I came back without my shoes and sat down at Mar's. Briya and Awa were there ahead of us; the others had gone. They stared fascinated at my feet, particularly, Awa who could not keep her eyes off. She shuddered and moved away and then said they were kafvasek -- small like a woman's. She was so upset, that I put the shoes on again. Later Awa urinated by the house, making few covering gestures so I wouldn't notice with her back turned to me, squatting on her heels. Then she carried a net bag to a bed outside and afterwards sat there.

262 The girls had cooked some large bush spiders, about an inch long, were eating them and offered me one. I tried it -- it was excellent, but I did not eat the head or teeth, as they expressed it; if eaten, it would cause sores.

● 576 Mar's mother kept asking who was watching my house. May was evidently anxious for me to leave. It is a breach of custom for an adult to be at a house with young girls unless there is an older person about. Finally Wof called out that there were a lot of men at my house, and I left. Kis was there dressing his sore, and a boy from Bangus was there bringing food. After supper, we heard wailing from Wof's house and then a burst of sobbing. May was crying because Wof had speared his pig. Tomorrow Marok will carry it to Koriassi to give to their sister (Ngusaruka) who is married there. Her father was Ulwiyin. Her brother was killed by the police boys.

648
583 The pig is hanging up now. Tomorrow it will be cut up at Mar's. Mar's elopement was arranged for tomorrow it was reported. Wey's daughters had been go-betweens, and she was willing. She brought some firewood up this afternoon to give to Mar, but Chinawa took it, saying it was better so. Aya is going to tell her father and family that she is going fishing with Wey's daughters and is to meet Mar on the road, and they will go to the

252 up just after dawn to say they were cutting up the pig. War, Marek, and
 Kar were doing the work -- Wof was looking on. Before the work was finished,
 War, Afok, Fokatay, and Yefalas came up. They sat around Wof's house
 and smoked, talked and chewed betel for ten minutes or so and then drifted
 off. They all sat facing away from the house, the women at the back..

501 Mas had planned to work on his canoe and came up carrying an ax.
 War told him to wait until he came back from Koriassi, and he would help.
 It wasn't worth it to ruin the canoe, as Mas and War were not good enough
 workmen. The others agreed, and Mas has given up the work.

191 The house boys are teaching Afok pidgin. He treats it as a joke,
 [522] and everyone is amused.

752 Kros came to the house and said that his father had told him not to
 123 come, but that if I wanted to put salve on his sore, I should come down
 there. His right eye looks pretty bad; it is secreting pus. His right
 cheek is cracking like roast pork. His left eye is all right, though the
 eyelid is still somewhat swollen.

838 Mas and Owiyap were playing the homosexual game, calling each other
 123 friends -- without the usual hilarity but rather unusually. Cimpangay came
 439 bringing firewood for me -- and asked for beads. Man loh (one who speaks my
 576 language) was his greeting for Owiyap.

436 Marek and his wife, Uka, Chinuwa, Yawaf, Difa, Mboran, Dav, War, and
 437 Wof went, carrying pig and two net bags of yams contributed by Marek.
 Owiyap and Mar contributed a "lap lap" each. They will receive a lot of
 shell money in return. May would have contributed something, but he is
 a "mooki nothing".

593 Since Ngusaruka's brother was killed by the police boys, she will not
 come to Rumbina because there is no one to look out for her, and she may
 be raped or coerced. Otherwise she would come with money, and soup

*115 put his arm around me repeating, "Oh, master! Greetings!" several times.
123 Mar's two sisters and three female children were around, and it may have
[576] been partly to show off to them. Such action fits in with Boma culture,
[522] in which embracing is the form of greeting. I asked Oviyap if one of the
little girls were his nina (girl), intending to kid him, but he said, "No,"
and carefully explained her relationship to him. He was perfectly serious
in this. I tried the same thing with May, with the same result; so apparently
such kidding is not done in this culture. On the way back, Oviyap carried
the rifle and led the procession although Wef, Mar and Marok, all older than
he, were present.

October 21, 1936.

*115 He came in this morning, and we asked him for some words, which he
648 gave us. Then, unbidden, he told us a story of a hanging he had
seen several years before (three, according to Mamb). Some of the natives
of Madayskwa, a village in the bush behind Avatip, had wounded a police boy
in the leg with a spear. The "klop" had punished them by hanging seven of
them and had brought in natives from the surrounding villages to observe
this so that it would be an example to them. This is the second time he
had volunteered stories of the killing of natives by white men. This time, as
before, he told the story animatedly, as if he were telling a very interesting
and exciting bit of news.